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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/587,959	06/06/2000	Ari Ikonen		9612

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EXAMINER

SLOAN, NATHAN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

DATE MAILED: 06/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/587,959

Applicant(s)

IKONEN ET AL.

Examiner

Nathan A Sloan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 June 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Notes

1. This supplemental Office Action is in response to a telephone interview with Geza Ziegler (Reg 44,004) on June, 3 2003 during which is was brought to the attention of the Examiner that an incorrect set of claims had been examined.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: items 43-45 of Figure 4. A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-2, 4, 6-7, and 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison et al. (6,064,420) in view of Singkornrat et al. (6,128,484).

Harrison et al. teach a system and method for providing wireless video distribution.

With respect to claims 1, 10, 13, and 14, the claimed system comprising an external device and television device is met as seen in Figure 9C by system 34. The claimed "coupling device for attaching an external device to a television device" is met by set-top box 35 and hand held request input device 200 of Figure 9C. The television device has an input to "receive certain external information signal in certain first format" via link connecting processor 38 to tv 42. The claimed "communication means for receiving information from the external device" is met by wireless transmitter/receiver 102. Examiner notes that short range radio communication means are notoriously well known in the art for communicating between a remote control and television unit. To these means, Singkornrat et al. (6,128,484) teach a system using RF communications from an input unit to a remote unit in column 2, lines 58-59. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to explicitly use RF communication for wireless reception 102 of Harrison as taught by Singkornrat in order to

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provide a signal reception device capable of transmitting control signals without direct line-of-sight. Furthermore, the claimed “means for converting received information to an information signal in a first format” is met reception unit 102 and processor 38. The claimed “first output for supplying said information signal in the first format to the first input of said television device” is met as noted above by output from processor 38 to television 42.

With respect to claim 2, the claimed “second input for receiving an external picture signal to be relayed to the television device through said first output” is met by input to receiver 36 “from media” as seen in Figure 9C.

With respect to claim 4, the claimed first output of the coupling device being an “antenna cable connector” is not taught by Harrison et al. Singkornrat et al. (6,128,484) teach a remote coupling device and a television reception device 14 and 16 using antenna cable connectors as claimed. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to use an antenna connector in order to simplify system setup, prevent users from having to connect wires, and make the system portable.

With respect to claim 6, the claimed “external device is battery operated, and said coupling device comprises means for charging a battery of said external device,” is not taught by Harrison et al.. Nevertheless, examiner notes that it is notoriously well known in the art for hand-held devices such as remote controls to be battery operated. Examiner takes Official Notice that is well known in the art to provide means to recharge a battery operated device. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Harrison in view of Singkornrat in by providing means to charge a battery powered

external device in order to avoid the costs and annoyance associated with repeatedly purchasing and installing new batteries.

With respect to claim 7, the claimed “means for receiving a second information from a television program source,” and “means to send said second information ... to said external device” is taught by Harrison by receiving primary and associated data (col. 13, 1-50) and transmitting associated data to a user hand-held device, claimed “external device.” As noted in response to claim 1, the transmission link being a “short range radio connection” is met by Singkornrat, and it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Harrison by using short-range radio connections in order to provide a signal reception device capable of transmitting and receiving signals without direct line-of-sight.

With respect to claim 9, the claimed “external device is a mobile station” is met by hand held request input device 200 of Figure 9C, which is a “mobile station” as claimed in that it is wireless and therefore mobile.

With respect to claim 11, the claimed external device being “detachably attachable to a television device” by coupling said first output to said first input is not taught by Harrison. Nevertheless, examiner takes Official Notice that it is well known in the art to connect control devices using a wire that is removable or “detachably attachable.” It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to modify the system of Harrison by providing a wired connection in order to prevent users from losing their remote control.

With respect to claim 12, the claimed external device “comprising means for attaching said external device detachably to a television device” is not taught by Harrison. Examiner takes Official Notice that it is well known in the art to provide means to attach a remote control to a

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television. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Harrison by allowing the hand-held device to be attached to the television in order prevent users from losing the hand-held device while not in use.

6. Claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison et al. (6,064,420) in view of Singkornrat et al. (6,128,484), and in further view of Bodle (GB 2,266,637).

With respect to claim 3, Harrison does not teach that the claimed first output is a "SCART-connector." Bodle teaches the use of SCART connectors for connecting a variety of audio-visual equipment on page 2, lines 3-17. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Harrison in view of Singkornrat by including a SCART connector as taught by Bodle in order to provide bi-directional connection of audio/visual signals amongst system components in European networks.

With respect to claim 5, the claimed coupling device comprising "switching means to disconnect a signal entering said second input from said first output when the coupling device is communicating with said external device and to connect the signal entering the second input to said first output when the coupling device is not communicating with said external device" is not explicitly taught by Harrison. Examiner notes that a single link from processor 38 to tv 42 in Figure 9C is provided to transmit both commands and programming. However, this link is not explicitly taught to be switched. Bodle clearly teaches switched connectors for connecting a plurality of devices using SCART sockets on page 8, lines 20+ and page 9 where a selected source is switched on, ie, a "second input from a first output" is connected and a separate source is disconnected. This may occur with a remote control device, television, vcr, and various other

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audio/video components as taught on pages 11-12 of Bodle. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Harrison in view of Singkornrat by including SCART connector switching means as taught by Bodle in order to perform disconnection and reconnection of plugs and sockets associated with audio and/or video components without the need for mechanical switching as taught on page 3, lines 19-27 of Bodle.

7. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harrison et al. (6,064,420) in view of Singkornrat et al. (6,128,484), and in further view of Hylton et al. (5,708,961).

With respect to claim 8, the claimed information comprising at least one of "picture and sound information" is not taught by Harrison. Harrison teaches sending control information from the hand-held device but not video and/or sound information. However, local two way wireless transmission of "information comprising at least one of picture and sound information" is known in the art. To these means, Hylton et al. (5,708,961) teach wirelessly transmitting video and sound information from an "external device" 10 using RF communication link 27 to receiving links 29, seen in Figure 1. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Harrison by sending video and/or audio information in order to ensure complete user interaction and relaying in a system comprising a plurality of devices.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Wharton et al. (5,831,664) teach a system and method for synchronizing display data between a television unit and mobile interface device.

Huang et al. (6,437,836) teach a remote control with display and RF communication link for viewing programming data.

Darbee et al. (6,278,499) teach a remote control with display and wireless circuitry for displaying advertising data.

Darbee et al. (6,130,726) teach a remote control with display for operating a consumer electronic device.

Sato (EP 0814609 A2) teach a system using SCART connectors with automated configuration.

Appiano (EP 0271897) teach an interface module that can be connected to a SCART connector.

Bennets (GB 2229584) teach a multiple contact connector that can be configured as a SCART plug.

Douglas (EP 0859510) teach a control signal generator unit for use in a video apparatus utilizing SCART capabilities.


Holliday (GB 2246048) teaches a system for selectively connecting a television device to one of a plurality of peripheral devices using SCART connectors.

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan A Sloan whose telephone number is (703)305-8143. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30AM to 6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller, can be reached on (703) 305-4795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)308-5399.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-4700.


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